

(19)

Europäisches Patentamt  
European Patent Office  
Office européen des brevets



(11)

**EP 1 031 321 A1**

(12)

**EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication:  
30.08.2000 Bulletin 2000/35

(51) Int Cl.<sup>7</sup>: **A61B 17/064, A61B 17/04**

(21) Application number: **00890032.6**

(22) Date of filing: **02.02.2000**

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU  
MC NL PT SE**  
Designated Extension States:  
**AL LT LV MK RO SI**

(72) Inventors:  
• Grafton, R. Donald  
Naples, Florida 34104 (US)  
• Chao, David J.  
San Diego, California 92109 (US)

(30) Priority: **02.02.1999 US 118228 P**  
**23.03.1999 US 125781 P**

(74) Representative: **Kopecky, Helmut, Dipl.-Ing.**  
**Kopecky & Schwarz Patentanwälte et al**  
**Wipplingerstrasse 32/22**  
**1010 Wien (AT)**

(71) Applicant: **Arthrex Inc**  
**Naples, Florida 34104 (US)**

**(54) Bioabsorbable tissue tack with oval-shaped head**

(57) A bioabsorbable cannulated tissue tack (2) having an anatomically shaped oblong head (6) is used in sutureless soft tissue fixation to bone, particularly in arthroscopic shoulder surgery. Slotted ribs (10) are formed along the shaft (4) of the tack. Repair of the

glenohumeral joint is performed by installing the tack through a hole formed through the soft tissue of the labrum and into the cancellous bone of the glenoid rim. Aligning the oblong head of the tack lengthwise along the glenoid rim provides a low profile that avoids articular impingement on the tack head.

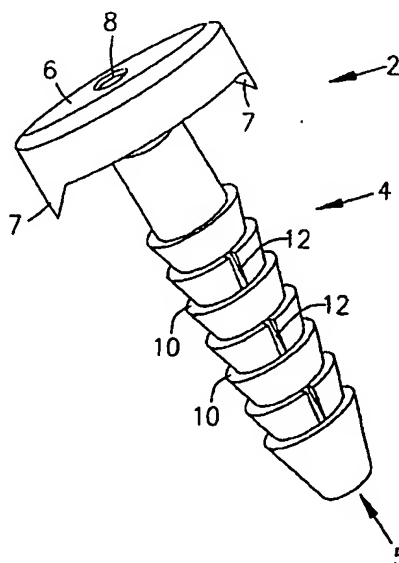


Fig. 1

**EP 1 031 321 A1**

## Description

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### 1. Field of the Invention:

[0001] The present invention relates to sutureless fixation of tissue to bone. More specifically, the present invention relates to a bioabsorbable tissue tack with an angled or straight oval-shaped head for sutureless tissue fixation in the shoulder.

#### 2. Description of the Related Art:

[0002] When soft tissue tears away from bone, reattachment becomes necessary. Various fixation devices, including sutures, screws, staples, wedges, and plugs have been used in the past to secure soft tissue to bone. More recently, various types of threaded suture anchors have been developed.

[0003] The known suture anchors generally require that the surgeon tie knots in the suture to secure tissue to the bone. Tying surgical knots is tedious and time-consuming. It would be preferable to be able to secure the soft tissue to the bone in one step without having to tie knots.

[0004] Accordingly, a need exists for a bioabsorbable anchor for soft tissue fixation that can be installed to secure tissue easily and effectively without sutures. A need also exists for a soft tissue fixation device having a low profile configuration particularly suited for reattachment of tissue to the glenoid rim.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] The present invention overcomes disadvantages of the prior art and fulfills the needs discussed above by providing a bioabsorbable tissue tack for sutureless fixation of soft tissue to bone. The head of the tack is oblong to provide a low-profile, and is mounted on a cannulated shaft. The head is mounted at a perpendicular angle to the shaft, or, alternatively, at an anatomic angle.

[0006] Preferred indications for the tissue tack of the present invention include arthroscopic or open repair of glenohumeral joint pathologies. These include reattachment of the glenoid labrum or inferior glenohumeral ligament in patients with primary or recurrent anterior dislocation or subluxation of the shoulder, in association with adequate post-operative immobilization.

[0007] The oblong shape of the tack head provides a narrow profile in one direction to allow head alignment along the glenoid rim. In a preferred embodiment, the heads are oval or elliptical in shape, although a rectangular or diamond oblong shape, for example, also could be used. The oblong head of the installed tack is aligned with the glenoid rim in shoulder repairs, for example, to present a low profile that prevents contact of the tack

with articular surfaces.

[0008] Advantageously, according to an alternative embodiment, the oblong head is disposed on the shaft in an angled configuration for situations in which the tack insertion portal is not perpendicular to the glenoid rim. Accordingly, both of the extended sides of the oblong head will sit flush with the tissue along the glenoid rim.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] Fig. 1 is a perspective scale view of a bioabsorbable tissue tack with a straight head according to the present invention.

[0010] Fig. 2 is a perspective scale view of a bioabsorbable tissue tack with a straight head according to an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

[0011] Fig. 3 is a plan scale view of a bioabsorbable tissue tack with an angled head according to the present invention.

[0012] Figs. 4-6 are schematic views illustrating a preferred method of shoulder repair according to the present invention.

[0013] Fig. 7 is a plan view of a tissue tack driver according to the present invention.

[0014] Fig. 8 is an end view detailing the head of the tissue tack driver of Fig. 7.

[0015] Fig. 9 is a cross-sectional plan view of a centering sleeve according to the present invention.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0016] A straight-headed bioabsorbable tissue tack 2 according to the present invention is shown in Figs. 1-2. A tissue tack 22 having an angled head according to the present is shown in Fig. 3.

[0017] Referring to Figs. 1-2, tissue tack 2 includes a cannulated shaft 4 with an oval-shaped head 6 disposed on the proximal end of the shaft. Tissue tack 2 has a blunt (i.e., flat) tip 5. In the embodiment of the invention shown in Figs. 1-2, the head 6 is formed at a perpendicular angle with respect to the shaft 4. Anchoring bars 7 are disposed on the longitudinal ends of oval-shaped head 6 and have pointed tips which extend distally toward the tip 5 of tack 2 to engage the labrum upon insertion. A cannula 8 extends continuously through the entire length of the tack 2, i.e., through both the head 6 and the tip 5 as well as the shaft 4. The cannula is 2.4 mm in diameter.

[0018] Tack 2 is provided with slotted ribs 10 formed circumferentially at least partially around and partially along the length of shaft 4. Ribs 10 have a truncated, conical shape, increasing in diameter toward the head of the tack at an angle of preferably 15° with respect to the longitudinal axis of tack 2, and reaching a major diameter of 3.0 mm. Slots 12 are formed in ribs 10 on alternating sides of shaft 4. The slots provide access for ingrowth of bony tissue for enhanced pullout strength.

[0019] Fig. 3 shows an embodiment in which a tissue tack 22 of the present invention is provided with an angled head. Specifically, tissue tack 22 has a cannulated shaft 24 provided with a cannulated oval-shaped head 26 disposed at an angle of 30° from the perpendicular with respect to the shaft 24. The 30° angle allows flush seating of the tack in the three o'clock to five o'clock positions, or the posterior superior labral positions, of the glenoid rim. As in the embodiment of Figs. 1-2, a cannula 28 extends through the entire length of the tack 22, and tack 22 is provided with ribs 30 having slots 32 disposed on alternating sides of shaft 24.

[0020] The head is provided in 3.0 mm and 4.5 mm sizes (widths) to accommodate different anatomies. The 4.5 mm. tissue tack is preferably provided with four barbs (two at each end of the oval), whereas the 3.0 mm. tissue tack has only two barbs (one at each end). In both cases, the major (end-to-end) length of the head is 7.0 mm, and the head is 1.65 mm thick. The working length of the implant, from the underside of the head to the distal tip, is 12.34 mm for the 3.0 mm head, and 14.7 mm for the 4.5 mm head. There is a smooth area of 3.07 mm from the most proximal edge of the most proximal rib to the underside of the head in both cases.

[0021] The preferred material for the tack is a non-crystalline, amorphous poly (L-lactide-co-D,L-lactide) 70%:30% (PLDLA) copolymer. This material reduces tissue reaction. The tack becomes encapsulated by fibrous tissue within six weeks after implantation, and generally degrades within 12 to 16 months. Although PLDLA is the most preferred material, other bioabsorbable materials known in the art can be utilized. As used herein, bioabsorbable is considered to be interchangeable with biodegradable, resorbable and absorbable to mean that the device can be absorbed by the body over time.

[0022] The tissue tack of the present invention is particularly well suited for reattachment of the glenoid labrum or inferior glenohumeral ligament in patients with primary or recurrent anterior dislocation or subluxation of the shoulder in association with adequate post-operative immobilization.

[0023] A preferred method of installing the tack is described in connection with performing an arthroscopic Bankart repair will now be described with reference to Figs. 4-9.

[0024] Referring initially to Fig. 4, the arthroscopic procedure is performed within the shoulder through an access cannula 38. A 2.4 mm cannulated spear 40, such as that disclosed in pending U.S. Patent No. 5,951,559, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference, is inserted through the glenoid labrum 42 using an obturator (not shown). Laser markings 44 on the spear are referenced to confirm a perpendicular pilot hole for the straight or angled tissue tack. The labrum is shifted to the glenoid rim 46 using the spear.

[0025] The obturator is removed, leaving the spear in place holding the labrum proximate the glenoid rim. A

non-cannulated 2.4 mm drill (not shown) is inserted into the spear. A window 48 in the spear provides arthroscopic control and visualization of the drill. A pilot hole 50 is drilled to a depth of 13 mm using a laser line (not shown) located distally on the drill as a depth stop reference.

[0026] The drill is removed, and a cannulated centering sleeve 52 (see also Fig. 9) is inserted into the spear (1 mm ID). The centering sleeve is pushed or tapped into the pilot hole 50. This allows central placement of a nitinol guide wire 54 into the pilot hole.

[0027] The 1 mm guide wire 54 is drilled or pushed, preferably using an insertion cap (not shown) such that the guide wire advances past the end of the centering sleeve up to a laser line on the guide wire. This locates the guide wire 5 mm further into cancellous bone to prevent the wire from coming out.

[0028] Once the guide wire 54 is secured in the base of the pilot hole 50, the centering sleeve 52 and the spear 40 are removed, leaving the guide wire 54 in position.

[0029] Referring to Fig. 5, a tissue tack 22 according to the present invention is installed over the guide wire 54. A cannulated tissue tack driver 56, having a 30° angled head as shown in Fig. 5, and described more fully below, is placed over the guide wire and engages the tack 22. Using the driver, the tack is advanced along the guide wire and into the pilot hole 50. Rotational adjustments can be made while the implant is partially seated, before barbs 27 anchor into the labrum 42.

[0030] Referring to Fig. 6, further tissue tacks can be inserted in a similar manner to further secure the labrum. Accordingly, straight headed tack 2 is inserted into a second pilot hole 60 using a straight-headed driver 70 as shown in Figs. 7 and 8. Driver 70 is similar to angled-headed driver 56 described above. The tissue driver has a cannulated handle 72 disposed on a cannulated shaft 74. The drive head 76 has a recessed portion 78 having a size and shape that corresponds to the head of the associated tissue tack. The recess 78 is flanked by two curved walls 80 separated by slots 82 engage either side of the tissue tack head and allow for proper alignment of the tissue tack with the glenoid rim during insertion, as noted above.

[0031] Once the tack has been properly aligned, a tamp 84 is driven with a mallet (not shown) to fully seat the tack with the long axis of the oblong head of the tissue tack aligned along the rim of the glenoid. The head of the tack is brought into flush proximity with the tissue surface, the tack slightly compressing the labrum. Tack 22 is shown having been seated using a tamp with an angled offset head. Placement of each tack is finalized by remove the guide wire and the driver.

[0032] Advantageously, the method and instrumentation of the present invention provide for placement of the guide wire after formation of the drill hole. This eliminates the possibility that the guide wire is inadvertently removed. In addition, the tack driver fully encloses the

guide wire during insertion, thus eliminating the chance of surgical glove penetration. Repair of SLAP (superior labrum anterior posterior) lesions can be effected in a similar manner.

[0033] Although the present invention has been described in relation to particular embodiments thereof, many other variations and modifications and other uses will become apparent to those skilled in the art.

10

#### Claims

1. A bioabsorbable tissue tack for sutureless fixation of soft tissue to bone, comprising:
  - a cannulated shaft having a distal end and a proximal end;
  - a plurality of ribs formed on the cannulated shaft and extending at least partially circumferentially around the cannulated shaft; and
  - an oblong head disposed on the proximal end of the shaft.
2. The bioabsorbable tissue tack according to claim 1, wherein the oblong head is disposed at an angle perpendicular to a central axis of the cannulated shaft.
3. The bioabsorbable tissue tack according to claim 1, wherein the oblong head is disposed at a non-perpendicular angle to a central axis of the cannulated shaft.
4. The bioabsorbable tissue tack according to claim 1, further comprising at least two barbs disposed on the head, at least one barb disposed at each longitudinal end of the oblong head, the barbs having respective pointed tips extending toward the distal end of the shaft for engaging the soft tissue upon insertion of the tack into bone.
5. The bioabsorbable tissue tack according to claim 1, wherein the ribs have a truncated conical shape with a surface sloped at an angle with respect to the longitudinal axis of the tack, and the ribs have a major diameter greater than the diameter of the shaft of the tack.
6. The bioabsorbable tissue tack according to claim 1, wherein a slot is formed in each of the ribs, such that the ribs extends less than completely circumferentially around the shaft of the tack.
7. The bioabsorbable tissue tack according to claim 6, wherein the slots formed in the ribs are disposed alternately on opposing sides of the shaft.

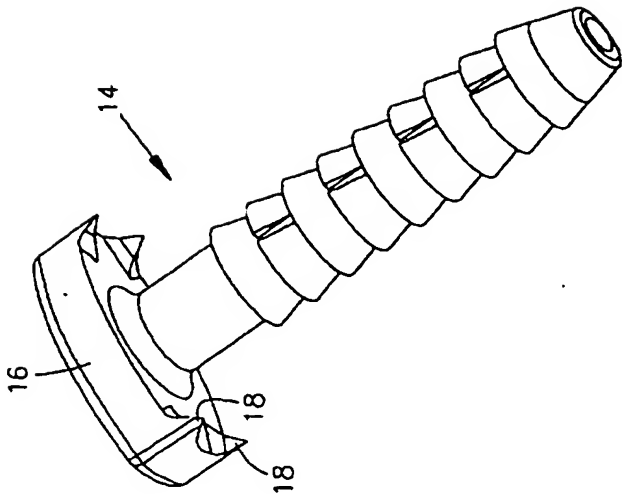


Fig. 2

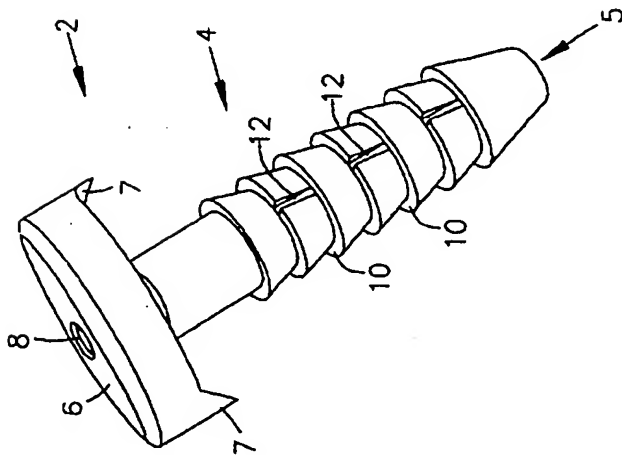


Fig. 1

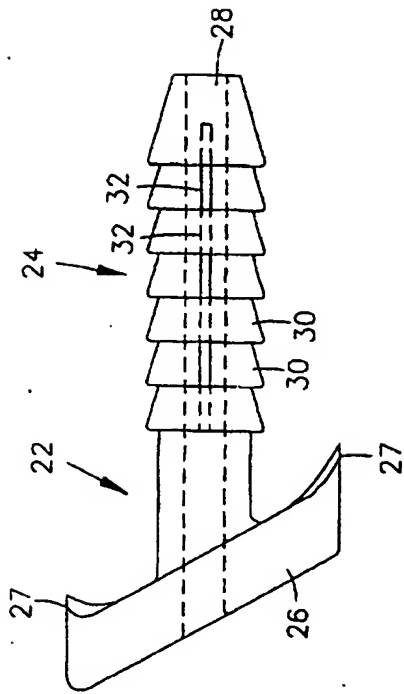


Fig. 3

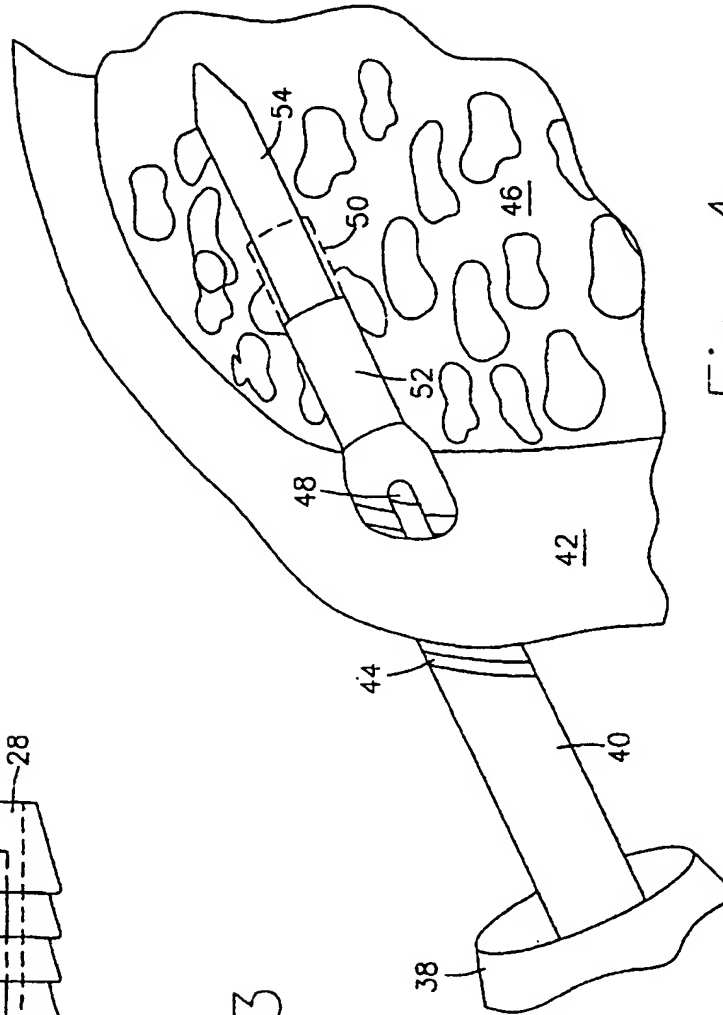


Fig. 4

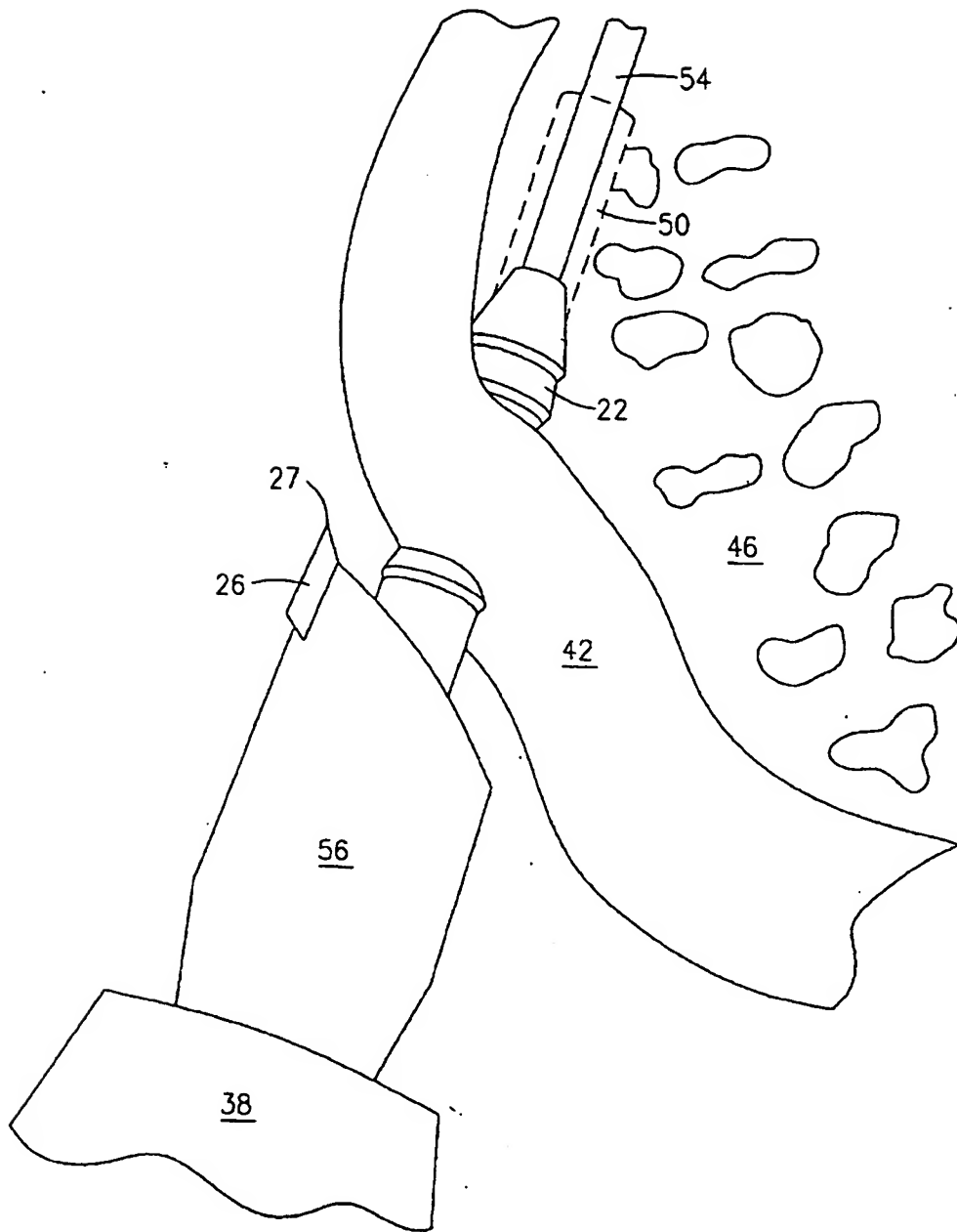
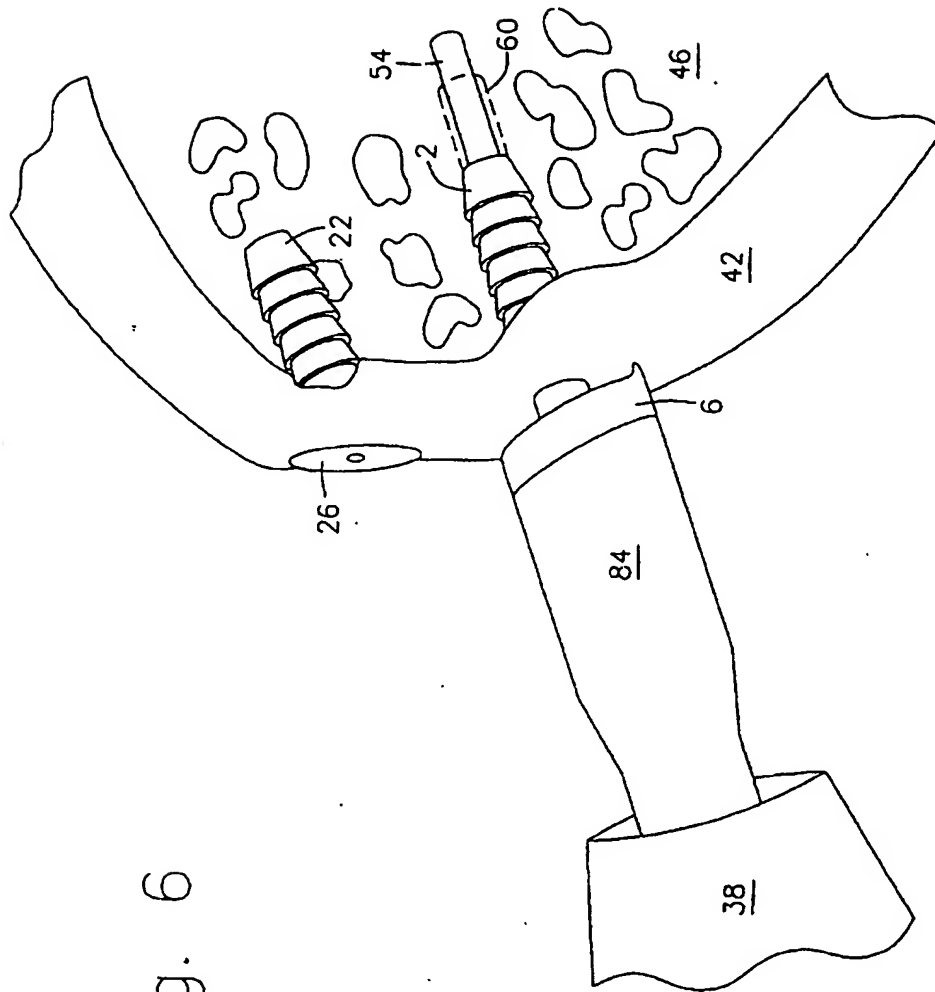


Fig. 5

Fig. 6





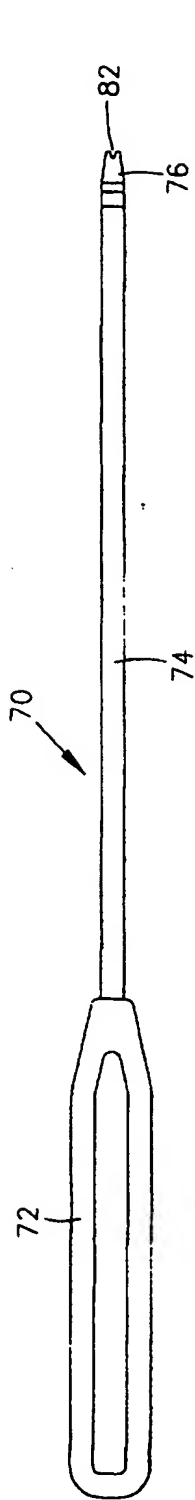


Fig. 7

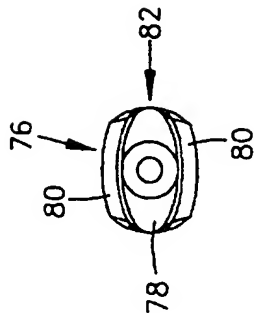


Fig. 8

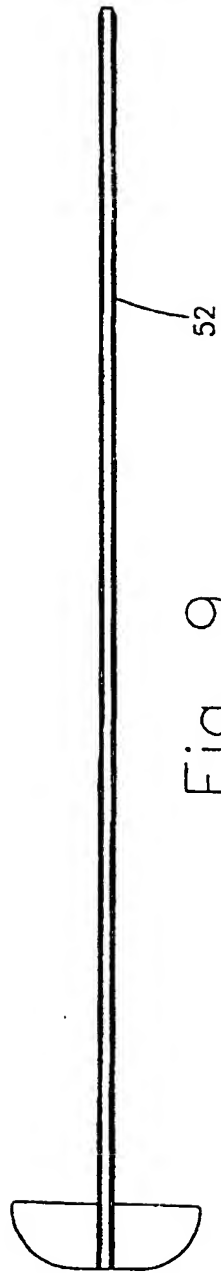


Fig. 9



European Patent  
Office

## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 89 0032

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 4 884 572 A (BAYS ET AL.) 5 December 1989 (1989-12-05) * the whole document *	1,2,5	A61B17/064 A61B17/04
Y	---	3,4,6	
Y	EP 0 611 557 A (SMITH & NEPHEW DYONICS INC) 24 August 1994 (1994-08-24) * abstract; figures * * column 9, line 53 - column 10, line 9 *	3,4,6	
A	WO 97 26028 A (KIRSCH) 24 July 1997 (1997-07-24) * abstract; figures *	1,2,4-6	
A	SPEER ET AL.: "AN ARTHROSCOPIC TECHNIQUE FOR ANTERIOR STABILIZATION OF THE SHOULDER WITH A BIOABSORBABLE TACK" JOURNAL OF BONE AND JOINT SURGERY, US, JOURNAL OF BONE AND JOINT SURGERY, BOSTON, vol. 78-A, no. 12, 1 December 1996 (1996-12-01), pages 1801-1807, XP000637793 ISSN: 0021-9355	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			A61B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>8 May 2000</b>	Examiner <b>Giménez Burgos, R</b>
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 (03.02) (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 89 0032

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

08-05-2000

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4884572 A	05-12-1989	US 4924865 A	15-05-1990
		US 4895148 A	23-01-1990
		US 4976715 A	11-12-1990
EP 0611557 A	24-08-1994	US 5380334 A	10-01-1995
		AT 179064 T	15-05-1999
		AU 704253 B	15-04-1999
		AU 4278097 A	12-02-1998
		AU 680214 B	24-07-1997
		AU 5516694 A	25-08-1994
		CA 2115778 A,C	18-08-1994
		DE 69417936 D	27-05-1999
		DE 69417936 T	11-11-1999
		ES 2133484 T	16-09-1999
		JP 6292686 A	21-10-1994
		US 5601558 A	11-02-1997
WO 9726028 A	24-07-1997	DE 19601477 A	24-09-1998
		AU 2021097 A	11-08-1997
		BR 9707032 A	20-07-1999
		CA 2242403 A	24-07-1997
		CN 1208354 A	17-02-1999
		EP 0881922 A	09-12-1998
		US 6007539 A	28-12-1999

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning  
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

**BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ **BLACK BORDERS**
- ☐ **IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- ☐ **FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☒ **BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☐ **SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- ☐ **COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- ☐ **GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- ☐ **LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- ☐ **REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- ☐ **OTHER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

**As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.**